

REMARKS

The Examiner alleges that claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsuei (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,779). Reconsideration is requested in view of distinction of the claims over the Tsuei discussed below.

Tsuei discloses an E-mail address management system in which database 338 relationally stores old addresses and new addresses of the recipient 150. Further, database 338 also stores predetermined information such as consumer consent, consumer authenticator, merchant authenticator. This information is used for purpose of security, troubleshooting and dispute handling as explained from column 7, line 66 to column 8, line 8.

These functions of the Tsuei system are explained in detail using Fig. 5 from column 10, line 38 to column 12, line 54. As described therein, consumer authenticator and merchant authenticator are used for greater assurance of the validity of an address change. The EAMS 330 requires consumer authenticator, merchant authenticator prior to effecting an address change to minimize the possibility that an unauthorized person can successively divert e-mail from a known e-mail address to another address for unlawful purposes such as e-mail interception or as a malicious prank. Further, it is disclosed that consumer consent ensures that the consumer 510 wants his or her address change registered with the EAMS 330.

The above noted features of the Tsuei patent are relevant to a confirmation made when an address change is requested. The "consumer 510" means a user who wants to register an address change. Therefore, "consumer consent" is a consent of a user who wants to register the address change, "consumer authenticator" is an authenticator of such a user, "merchant authenticator" is an authenticator of an ISP to which such a user belongs. This means that data stored in the records 340 as consumer consent, consumer authenticator and merchant authenticator are indicative of information of recipient 150, not of sender 110 in FIG. 3 of Tsuei.

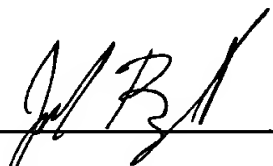
On the other hand, the present invention employs database storing an address disclosing condition whereby a changer decides whether to give permission to disclose the new address to a sender of email to the old address. Namely, information of the users other than a changer (i.e. users who may send email to the old email address) is necessary as disclosing condition. Specifically, claim 1 of the Application recites a database storing "an

address disclosing condition whereby the change judges whether to give permission to disclose the new address” and a “means for informing the inquirer of the new address when the change permits the disclosure of the new address.” Similar features, relating to the feature of the Invention by which permission is given, or a selective basis, to disclose or not to disclose the new address to an inquirer, in independent claims 8 and 26. There is no such feature described or suggested in the Tsuei patent. In contrast, the Tsuei system, as described therein, will in all instances forward email to the new address regardless of the identity of the sender of email to the old address.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant's submit that independent claims 1, 8 and 26 each recite substantial features that are distinct and lacking in the Tsuei patent, and this request reconsideration thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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